

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /117 W

-----160645Z 058662 /21

O P 151935Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5235

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

ERDA HQ WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

REF: GENEVA 1066

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET REP IS PRESSING US TO AGREE TO
MARCH 14-18 DATES FOR MDW MEETING, AND VARIOUS WESTERN
DELS ARE PREPARED SEND QTE EXPERTS UNQTE TO THIS MEETING.
BARRING UNEXPECTED NON-ALIGNED OPPOSITION, USDEL EXPECTS
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CONVEY SHORTLY TO SOVDEL ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH 14-18 DATES
FOR MDW MEETING BUT NOT RPT NOT TO SENDING US EXPERT
UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY WASHINGTON. REQUEST
GUIDANCE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK ON US EXPERT'S ATTENDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH

PRIORITY TO MDW, HAVING CITED IT SPECIFICALLY ALONG WITH CTB AND CW AS MAJOR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT SPRING CCD MEETING (REFTTEL). IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT, WHILE SHARING OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT VALUE OF AN MDW CONVENTION, SEVERL OF OUR MAJOR ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO SEND EXPERTS TO MDW DISCUSSIONS PRIMARILY TO AVOID OFFENDING SOVIETS. ITALY SEEMS MORE WILLING TO SEND EXPERT; UK SEEMS PREPARED SEND PARTICIPANT, HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISION, AND PREFERS MILITARY THEORIST RATHER THAN EXPERT; FRG IS PREPARED SEND EXPERT BUT NOT IF US DOES NOT. NO WESTERN DELEGATION OBJECTS TO MARCH 14-18 DATES.

3. REASONS FOR SKEPTICISM ON SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL ARE WELL KNOWN TO INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES, AND NEED NOT BE REPEATED HERE. DELEGATION FULLY SHARES THIS SKEPTICISM. OUR REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE RESPONSES ARE PURELY TACTICAL AND DIPLOMATIC IN NATURE. WE SHOULD STRONGLY DISCOURAGE EXPECTATIONS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS THIS TOPIC IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HOWEVER, WE SEE SOME BENEIFTS IN AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPERTS' MEETING PROPOSED BY SOVIETS FOR MARCH 14-18.

4. GIVEN ADMINISTRATION'S STRESS ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES FACT THAT UNGA REQUESTED CCD TO PURSUE MDW FURTHER, US FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE MINIMUM COOPERATION IN A SOVIET INITIATIVE MIGHT SET WRONG TONE, NOT JUST AT CCD, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT BY SECSTATE TO MOSCOW. WE FULLY EXPECT THAT FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPERT DISCUSSIONS WILL DEMONSTRATE - AS HAVE PRIOR ONES - DIFFICULTIES INDEFINING

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MDW AND IN DRAWING UP ARMS CONTROL PROVISIONS

APPLICABLE TO A DIVERSITY OF ILL-DEFINED CONCEPTS.

WE WXPECT A NUMBER OF OTHER DELS TO JOIN US IN POINT OUT

THESE AND OTHER DEFICIENCIES IN SOVIET APPROACH, SO WE

WILL NOT STAND AS A LONE CRITIC.

5. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT NEW US INITIATIVES ON CTB

AND CW ARE LIKELY AND WILL, IF FORTHCOMING, ATTRACT FOR

MORE INTEREST FROM MOST CCD MEMBERS. CONTRAST BETWEEN

FUTURE US PROPOSALS AND RATHER LAME SOVIET EFFORT ON MDW

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WILL STAND OUT MORE CLEARLY IF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL HAS BEEN

GIVEN A FULL AND FAIR AIRING. MEANWHILE WE DO HAVE PROBLEM

HERE OF MAINTAINING APPEARANCE OF CONTINUING US INVOLVEMENT

AS CCD CO-CHAIRMAN, AND OF DEMONSTRATING STRONG US

INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL, YET HAVING AWAIT COMPLETION

CURRENT US STUDIES UNTIL WE CAN ADDRESS SPECIFICS

MEANINGFULLY. SCHEDULING OF MDW DISCUSSIONS FOR WEEK OF

MARCH 14-18 MAKES IT EASIER FOR US TO ARGUE FOR DEFERRAL

OF CW AND CTB DISCUSSIONS UNTIL LATE MARCH, AT WHICH TIME

WE MAY BE IN BETTER POSITION TO ELABORATE PRELIMINARY

USG VIEWS.

6. WE INTEND SHORTLY AGREE TO PROPOSED DATES OF

MARCH 14-18 FOR REASONS NOTED ABOVE. WE BELIEVE POSSIBLE

COMPROMISE ON MDW PARTICIPATION WOULD BE TO SEND MID-LEVEL

OFFICIALS FROM ACDA, DDR&E OR ERDA, BEARING IN MIND THAT

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SINGLE EXPERT ON RANGE OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS COVERED BY MDW RUBRIC. WHOEVER REPRESENTS US AS AN EXPERT SHOULD BE WELL-BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND US POSITION, AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESIST STOUTLY EFFORTS TO MOVE TOPIC TO NEGOTIATIONS OR TO EXTEND SCOPE OF MDW IN WAYS THAT WOULD IMPINGE ON OR CHALLENGE VALIDITY OF EXISTING OR PROSPECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. IF DECISION IS MADE TO SEND A US EXPERT HE CAN COUNT ON GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM THIS DELEGATION. (PARENTHETICALLY, SOVIET AMB MADE CLEAR SOVIET EXPERT WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL ADVISORS.)

7. WHILE SOVIET REP HAD EARLIER APPEARED UNWILLING COMMIT HIS DEL TO FEB 21-25 SEISMIC EXPERTS' GROUP MEETING, JUST PRIOR OPENING SESSION OF CCD HE ADVISED USREP HIS RESERVATIONS INVOLVED DESIRE HAVE CCD ITSELF (I.E., CO-CHAIRMEN) SET DATES. AFTER CCD SESSION, SOVIET REP ADVISED THAT SWEDISH REP THORSSON WOULD DRAFT PROPOSAL SETTING SUCH DATES, FOR CO-CHAIRMEN'S REVIEW AND APPROVAL. SOVIET REP HAS CONTINUED PRESS HARD FOR US AGREEMENT TO MARCH 14-18. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MDW DISCUSSION SCHEDULING, WHILE APPEARING ACCEPT USDEL INDICATIONS US PARTICIPATION IN SUCH MDW MEETINGS IS UNCERTAIN. USDEL BELIEVES AGREEMENT TO THIS MDW SCHEDULING IS WITHIN ITS AUTHORIZED INSTRUCTIONS, AND INTENDS TO AGREE TO DATE UNLESS UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION DEVELOPS FROM NON-ALIGNED, MAKING THIS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE. WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT AGREE, HOWEVER, TO SENDING US EXPERT TO SUCH MEETING UNLESS AND UNTIL SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY WASHINGTON.

8. GUIDANCE REQUESTED: USG POSITION AT EARLY DATE ON SENDING A US EXPERT. WE SHOULD HAVE SUCH GUIDANCE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK, IF WE ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN SHAPING VIEWS OF OTHERS.CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, MDW, MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 1066
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SAS ID: 3322388
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca44cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009